

were previously disclosed but unclaimed in the application as originally filed. The attached Appendix contains a version of the claims without markings.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant Amendment does not introduce new matter into the application. It is also respectfully submitted that the Preliminary Amendment places the above-identified application in even better condition for initial examination.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September __, 2001

Atty. Docket No.: NC 83019